

Hawthorne
Fordingbridge Rural District Council
Sanitary Authority.

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE

Year ending December 31st, 1907,

BY THE

Medical Officer of Health

TO THE

FORDINGBRIDGE UNION.

FORDINGBRIDGE :

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A faint, light-colored watermark of a classical building with four columns and a pediment is visible in the background.

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DURING the Year 1907 there have been registered:—

157 *Births* (89 males, 68 females). This shows an increase of 7 on the number registered in 1906, and is only 2·5 below the average for the past 10 years. It is also only 1 below the average Birth-rate per 1000 for the past 10 years, 25·6 as against 25·78. The upward tendency in the Birth-rate, noticed last year, still continues. The males are in excess of the females, as is usually the case. There are 11 illegitimate Births registered, as against 4 in 1906, which was an exceptionally low record in this respect. As noticed last year, owing to the classification of the number of Births in separate Parishes, the averages for the past ten years in Table II. are not available.

91 *Deaths* from all causes. This is equal to 14·8 per 1000 of the population, which is returned at 6,130 souls.

This Death-rate is 1·2 above the average for the past 10 years, viz., 13·6 per 1000, and the actual number 91 is the fourth highest record for the past 11 years. The heavy Death-rate and only slightly increased Birth-rate make the vital statistics for the year less satisfactory than those of 1906. 55 of the Deaths occurred in the first half of the year, and 36 in the second half, a greater difference than is usually seen, perhaps due to an Epidemic of Influenza in the first 2 or 3 months of the year. The 6 healthiest months appear to be August with 3 deaths, June and September with 4 deaths each, and May, July and November with 5 deaths each. The other 6 months in order of highest mortality, show January with 13 deaths, February and March with 12 deaths each, December with 11 deaths, April with 9 deaths, and October with 8 deaths, so that the middle of the year appears to have been the healthiest period. The first 3 months of the year show 37 deaths, the second 3 months 18 deaths, the third 3 months 12 deaths, and the fourth 3 months 24 deaths, the mortality in the Summer months, July, August, and September, was exceptionally light, showing that the absence of Summer Diarrhœa still continues to be noticeable.

COMMENTS ON THE DEATH-RATE.

Of the 91 Deaths, 49 were males, 42 females; 38 were 70 years or over that age (19 males, 19 females), 19 being 80 years or over that age (11 males, 8 females), 2 attained the age of 90 years,

both females. The 38 over 70 years of age averaged 80.02 years each, the 19 males averaged 81.6 years each, and the 19 females 78.7 years each. As is usually the case, the average age of the males exceeds that of the females.

13 were between 60 and 70 years of age (8 males, 5 females).

5 " 50 and 60 " (all males).

9 " 40 and 50 " (4 males, 5 females).

5 " 30 and 40 " (1 male, 4 females).

2 " 20 and 30 " (both males).

2 " 10 and 20 " (both males).

6 were below 5 and above 1 year of age (2 males, 4 females).

The mortality *below 1 year of age* amounted to 11 (7 males, 4 females). This number is 2 more than last year, 9 of the 11 being included under Sub-section iii., "Wasting Diseases" of Table v., which includes 6 premature Births. This is 3 times as many premature Births as in 1906.

49 of the total number of deaths were at the two extremes of life, and 62 of the 91 Deaths were below 1 year and over 60 years of age, leaving 29 Deaths to be distributed over the intervening 59 years.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES INCLUDED IN TABLE III.

Under this heading are included 11 cases of *Diphtheria*, 11 of *Erysipelas*, 1 of *Scarlet Fever*, 1 of *Enteric Fever*, and 1 of *Continued Fever*.

Diphtheria.—All the cases occurred at separate times and places, with the exception of 3 in one family, at the same time at Martin. One case, reported in an old man at the Fordingbridge Workhouse, terminated fatally, all the other cases made good recoveries. In several cases the Antidiphtheritic Serum was used beneficially, and at the close of the year the Rural District Council undertook to supply the Serum in cases where the patients were too poor to be able to pay for it themselves. All necessary precautions and inspections were carried out.

Erysipelas.—All the cases were comparatively mild and recovered from, and did not partake of an epidemic form in any way.

Scarlet Fever.—The single case occurred in a child at Woodgreen. There was another child in the house, but she did not

take the disease. Isolation, disinfection, &c., were all carefully carried out and the disease did not spread. The child made a good recovery.

Enteric Fever.—One isolated case was reported in a man who spent most of his time travelling about with a Show. He made a good recovery.

Continued Fever.—One case of Acute Septicæmia occurred in a child of 3 years old at Breamore. He fell and scratched his knee, an abscess formed and was opened as soon as seen, but the disease had attacked the periosteum, acute infective Osteitis set in, the thigh bone broke at the neck and amputation at the hip-joint was performed, but the child died.

The number of cases recorded under Table III. is again small.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES NOT INCLUDED IN TABLE III.

Measles.—Only 16 cases, 6 below and 10 above 5 years of age are reported as occurring amongst pauper patients, but there was a very virulent and wide-spread Epidemic at Breamore and Woodgreen during November and December, very few children, apparently, escaping the disease. As a rule it ran a very straight course, with very few cases of complication, but two cases, in young infants proved fatal, one of Broncho-Pneumonia and the other of œdema of the Glottis.

Pertussis.—Four cases below and 1 above 5 years of age are reported. No deaths occurred.

Influenza.—Thirty-seven cases, all above 5 years of age are reported amongst pauper patients. The disease was very prevalent in the early part of the year. 7 cases proved fatal, all in adults of advanced age, five of them being over 70 years, 2 died of Pneumonia, 1 of Broncho-Pneumonia, 1 of Pleuro-Pneumonia, one of Bronchitis, 1 of Influenza in old Aortic disease, and the other case was one of Influenza complicating a case of exhaustion of old age. Otherwise the disease ran a very favourable course.

Other or Doubtful Fevers.—Under this heading are included, 6 cases below and 18 above 5 years of age. All favourable and most of them cases of Tonsilitis.

OTHER DISEASES.

Diarrhœa.—Eleven cases of this disease are reported (2 below, 9 above 5 years of age), amongst pauper patients. Two cases proved fatal, one in a man aged 62 years after 3 days' illness, and the other in an old man of 86 years of age after 4 days' illness. Both fatal cases occurred in the height of the Summer, but there was no actual Epidemic this year.

Bronchial and Respiratory Disorders.—Under this head are included *Phthisis*, *Pleurisy*, *Pneumonia*, *Asthma*, *Bronchitis*, and *Catarrh*, and amongst Pauper Patients we have recorded 25 below and 131 above 5 years of age; 156 in all as against 127 in all last year. 9 Deaths from *Phthisis* have occurred all above 5 years of age. There are no Deaths from other Tubercular Disease. The ages of the fatal cases were, three females, 37, 41, and 49 years, and six males, 17, 24, 29, 37, 48, and 50 years. One Death is attributed to *Pleurisy* in an old woman of 77 years and was complicated by Cardiac Syncope. Four Deaths are recorded as due to *Pneumonia*, 2 above 5 years of age, two males 49 and 60 years, and 2 below 5 years of age, two female infants $1\frac{1}{4}$ and 3 years of age. Nine Deaths are attributed to *Bronchitis*, one below and eight above 5 years of age, one was acute in an infant of 15 months, and the remainder were of the chronic form, one being complicated with Emphysema. Adding the 7 Deaths attributed to Influenza, we find the total number of Deaths under the heading of *Bronchial and Respiratory Disorders* is 21, as against 16 in 1906 and 5, 10 in 1904, and 17 in 1903. The more severe Epidemic of Influenza at the beginning of the year probably made the death rate under this heading the heaviest we have had for some years. Again adding the 9 Deaths from *Phthisis*, we have 30 Deaths recorded under the heading of Respiratory Troubles as compared with 27 in 1906, 23 in 1905, 18 in 1904, and 25 in 1903. This again is the highest record for the past 5 years.

Heart Disease.—10 Deaths are recorded as due to disease of this organ in some form or other, all above 5 years of age, as compared with 14 for 1906. Three are due "*Mitral Regurgitation*, two to *Fatty Degeneration*, one to *Ulcerative Endocarditis* in a child of 12 years of age, 1 to *Aneurism*, and 1 to *Angina Pectoris*, the rest are returned as "*Heart Disease*," most of them probably being of a Mitral character.

New Growths.—7 Deaths are reported under this head, one more than in 1906, 9 being registered in 1905, 6 in 1904, and 11 in 1903. The total this last year seems to be about the usual number. One Death each was due to *Cancer of the Breast*, *Cancer of Œsophagus*, *Cancer of Sigmoid*, *Cancer of Prostate*, *Cancer of Uteris*, *Cancer of Stomach*, and *Cancer of Head of the Pancreas*.

Two Deaths were due to Accident, one by Drowning and the other by a child falling into a pot of Boiling Water.

One Death was due to Suicide by Hanging.

8 Deaths were due to *Cerebral Hæmorrhage*, 2 to *Uraemia*, 1 to *Epilepsy*, (Status Epilepticus), 1 to *Pyæmia*, following Chronic Abscess of the Femur 1 to *Senile Gangrene*, 1 to *Diabetes* and 1 to Exhaustion following *Gastric Ulcer* in an old case of Paralysis of Agitaris.

Four Deaths occurred in the Fordingbridge Union Infirmary and one in the Fordingbridge Nursing Home.

GENERAL SANITARY CONDITION OF THE DISTRICT.

As will be seen in the foregoing part of my Report, the General Health has been good on the whole. With the exception of Measles and Influenza, there have been no Outbreaks of Epidemic Disease.

No cases have been taken before the Magisterial Bench, and as will be seen in the Report of the Inspector of Nuisances, most complaints have been quickly attended to, and Nuisances abated, on his representation.

The chief item during the year has been the thorough investigation of the Dairies and Cow-sheds in the District, as required under the Dairies' and Cow-sheds' Act. In company with the Inspector of Nuisances, I have thoroughly renovated the existing List of Cow-keepers, coming under the Act, and have inspected all the Premises and pointed out Improvements necessary before a proper Certificate could be granted. All our suggested alterations have been carried out satisfactorily, generally without any trouble, but in one or two cases after

considerable pressure had been brought to bear. A full Report of our Inspections was handed to the Dairies' and Cow-sheds Committee, and arrangements made for an Annual Inspection in the future.

The Privy Arrangements in the various Schools seem to be working satisfactorily.

Numerous Drains, Pigsties, &c., have called for our attention and have been rectified or removed, as the case required; in one case after repeated notices to abate a pigsty nuisance, without any effect, the Rural District Council decided to prohibit the keeping of pigs, if the nuisance was not abated at once, and this action had the desired effect.

Street Watering and Refuge Collection is in a much more satisfactory state than it used to be, and the latter is very generally taken advantage of, but there is still a large number of nondescript receptacles provided for the dustman to pick up the Refuse in, which often entails refuse being dropped about in the Streets. I consider that it should be made compulsory for the proper watertight buckets, &c., to be used, which are very moderate in price.

The Inspector of Factories has pointed out defects in Workshops, when Inspecting, in 3 or 4 instances, and they have been satisfactorily attended to.

In one instance the Inspector of Nuisances found a Coach-house being used as a Slaughter-house, there being no provision for drainage, or other means for cleansing the place. This was reported to the Rural District Council and the Tenant ordered to stop the practice.

I have tested 18 Samples of Water during the year and have granted Certificates for satisfactory water supply for 13 New Houses.

I append a Report under the Factory and Workshops' Act, drawn up by the Inspector of Nuisances.

Schools, Lodging-houses Slaughter-houses, Dairies and Bake-houses have been periodically Inspected.

The Building of New Cottages still continues in all parts of the District.

I append the

INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES' REPORT FOR
THE YEAR 1907.

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| Schools Inspected | 9 | Drains Altered or Re- paired | 5 |
| Slaughter-houses Inspected | 5 | Samples of Water taken for Examination | 18 |
| Bake-houses Inspected ... | 20 | Certificates granted for Water Supply to New Houses | 13 |
| Cottages Inspected | 119 | New Privy Accommodation provided | 6 |
| Dairies and Cow-sheds Inspected | 47 | Nuisances Reported or Detected | 41 |
| Workshops Inspected ... | 28 | Notices Served | 9 |
| Filthy Houses cleansed ... | 3 | | |
| Houses Disinfected | 8 | | |
| Wells Sunk, Repaired or Cleansed | 2 | | |
| Overcrowding Abated ... | 2 | | |

ARTHUR E. ALEXANDER, A.S.I.,

Inspector of Nuisances.

At the time of closing my Report, the Health of the District is on the mend, although we are still suffering from a very widespread Epidemic of Whooping Cough, which has been very fatal in the Infant Population, and 2 of the Day Schools in the District are closed on account of the Disease. Influenza and Chicken Pox are also prevalent.

HERBERT V. RAKE,

Medical Officer of Health for the Rural District Council of the Fordingbridge Union.

